

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Director Announces Three New Advisory Board Members

CORDELE – Dr. Rhonda Medows, Commissioner, Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH) and Charles Owens, director of the State Office of Rural Health (SORH), announced three new members of the SORH Advisory Board. The members will provide guidance and direction to SORH programs serving rural and underserved citizens of Georgia. The SORH is a division of the Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH).

The new members are:

- Gregory J. Dent, President and CEO of Community Health Works, Forsyth
- William P. Kissel, M.S., CCHP, director of the Quality and Evaluation Unit, Georgia Department of Human Resources, Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Addictive Disease, Atlanta
- Cheryl Evans Shedd, RN, MS, NP-C, CDE, an assistant professor at North Georgia College and University, Dahlonega

"I am confident that the combined expertise, wisdom and commitment to Georgia that these three individuals bring to the State Office of Rural Health Advisory Board will help improve the health status of the state's rural and underserved populations," said Dr. Rhonda Medows.

Members of the SORH Advisory Board offer insight to DCH and SORH on policy and program initiatives to facilitate access to quality health care, as well as provide direct input into the development and administration SORH managed initiatives. The SORH Advisory Board, which meets quarterly, consists of 12 representatives from community health centers, rural and critical access hospitals, academic institutions, public health, migrant and health centers and other health organizations.

SORH Advisory Board members are chosen based on their knowledge, experience, and commitment to serve rural and underserved communities. A lottery determines the term limit of each board member. The maximum term is three years.

Current members of the SORH Advisory Counsel are:

- Chairman, Kevin Taylor, Archbold Health System, Thomasville
- Steve Barber, Ty Cobb Health System, Royston
- William Bina, MD, MPH, Mercer University, Macon
- Jennie Wren Denmark, East Georgia Healthcare Center, Inc., Swainsboro
- Maryanne Shepherd, FNP, Ellaville Primary Medicine Clinic, Ellaville

- Carlos Stapleton, Georgia Highlands Medical Services, Inc., Cumming
- Advisory Board Secretary Stuart Tedders, PhD, Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health, Center for Rural Health & Research, Statesboro
- Advisory Board Vice-Chair Cindy Turner, Bacon County Hospital, Alma
- Ex-Officio, Charles F. Owens, Executive Director, Office of Rural Health, Cordele

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About the Department of Community Health

The Georgia Department of Community Health champions:

ACCESS to affordable, quality health care in our communities

RESPONSIBLE health planning and use of health care resources

HEALTHY behaviors and improved health outcomes

Equal Opportunity Employer